

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A data link switching (DLSw) routing information field (RIF) passthru technique provides end-to-end source route information to source and destination endstations coupled to respective local and remote source-route bridge (SRB) subnetworks of a DLSw network. The local and remote SRB subnetworks include respective local and remote DLSw peer switches that communicate over an intermediate wide area network to form the DLSw network. The source route information describes a complete path between the source endstation and the local DLSw switch on the local SRB subnetwork, and the remote DLSw switch and destination endstation on the remote SRB subnetwork. The DLSw RIF passthru technique enables token ring frame exchanges between the source and destination endstations with end-to-end source route information that is transparently forwarded between the DLSw peer switches.